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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5805
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1211
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 1791
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1749
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 0613
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 0262
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 4171
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 1722
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1580
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8095
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 1100
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 9513
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 5007
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY 0608
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 6748
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 0160
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1757

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 004915

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2016

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SUBJECT: JAPAN WILL ATTEND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF SRI
LANKA CONTACT GROUP

REF: STATE 140812

Classified By: POLITICAL MINISTER COUNSELOR MICHAEL MESERVE FOR REASONS
1.4(B),(D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Japan supports the proposed Sri Lanka Contact Group and will attend the September 27 meeting. Tokyo wishes to know whether other positive responses have been made to this proposal, whether the September 27 meeting will be the first formal meeting of the Group or whether it will be more "preparatory" in nature, and whether there is a limit to the number of participants each government can bring. At this point, MOFA can not say exactly who from Tokyo will attend the September meeting. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) Per reftel, Embassy Tokyo Political Officer called on MOFA officials Koji Sugiyama, Deputy Director of the Southwest Asia Division of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and Takehiko Wajima, assistant to Special Representative for Sri Lanka Yasushi Akashi, to discuss Japan's response to the proposed creation of a Sri Lanka Contact Group. Sugiyama reported that Tokyo was well aware of this proposal before the August 24 meeting and is fully supportive. The intervention of Japanese Political Counselor Okana at the meeting was meant to clearly signal Japan's complete support for the proposal. Sugiyama confirmed that Japan will participate in the September 27 meeting. However, it is not possible at this moment to say for certain who will be included in Japan's delegation.

3. (C) Sugiyama and Wajima sought clarification of several issues. First, they wished to know whether other countries have responded positively to this proposal. Second, they wanted to know if there was a limit on the number of delegates each participating nation could send to the meeting. And finally, whether the September meeting would be the first formal meeting of the Contact Group or whether it will be another "preparatory" meeting prior to the formal launch. Please advise so we may pass the answers to these questions back to MOFA.
DONOVAN